

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) A method for detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast in a subject comprising treating a sample of breast fluid from the subject with an aldehyde detecting reagent where the detection of a change produced by the aldehyde detecting reagent compared to a control is indicative of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer.
2. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 comprising the following steps:
 - a) obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject;
 - b) depositing the sample on a solid support;
 - c) treating the sample with an aldehyde detecting reagent without any prewashing;
 - d) detecting a colorimetric change produced in the sample, where detection of a colorimetric change compared to a control is indicative of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast.
3. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 for detecting a neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast in a subject, which method comprises:
 - a) obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject;
 - b) depositing the sample on a solid support;
 - c) treating the sample on the support with a Schiff's reagent without any prewashing; and
 - d) detecting a colorimetric change resulting from the reaction of the sample and Schiff's reagent wherein a colorimetric change is indicative of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast.
4. (CANCELLED)
5. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method comprises:
 - (a) obtaining a sample of breast fluid from the nipple of one or both non-lactating breasts of a subject;
 - (b) depositing the collected sample on a solid water-insoluble support;

- (c) treating the sample on the support with a Schiff's reagent without any prewashing;
 - (d) washing the sample; and
 - (e) screening for neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast by persistent purple coloration produced in the sample.
6. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 5 wherein the breast fluid is breast discharge, ductal secretion, or nipple aspirate fluid.
 7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~for detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast in a subject comprising obtaining from the subject of~~ claim 2 wherein the ~~[[a]] sample suspected of containing~~ contains an aldehyde marker associated with breast cancer, and comprising in step d) detecting the presence of the aldehyde marker in the sample.
 8. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 7 wherein the aldehyde marker is capable of reacting with a Schiff's reagent to produce a colorimetric change.
 9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 7 ~~[[or 8]]~~ wherein the aldehyde marker comprises low molecular weight aldehydes that are soluble in water.
 10. (CANCELLED)
 11. (CANCELLED)
 12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 1 for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method consists essentially of obtaining a sample of breast fluid from the breast of a subject; treating the sample with a Schiff's reagent; and, detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast based upon the coloration produced in the sample by the treatment.
 13. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the coloration is distinguished from other colorations.
 14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 12 ~~[[or 13]]~~ wherein the breast fluid is nipple discharge, ductal secretion , nipple aspirate or nipple aspirate fluid.
 15. (CANCELLED).
 16. (CANCELLED)
 17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claim[s] 12 to 16~~ wherein the sample is adsorbed on a water-insoluble substrate.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the water-insoluble substrate is made from polyester fibre, ~~polymacron~~, or glass fibre fabrics.
19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 2 wherein the sample is additionally screened for the presence of other markers that are indicators of breast cancer.
20. (CANCELLED)
21. (CANCELLED)
22. (CANCELLED)
23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A kit for carrying out a method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 12.
24. (NEW) A method of claim 1 for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method consists essentially of obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject; directly treating the sample with a Schiff's reagent and, detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast based upon the coloration produced in the sample by the treatment.
25. (NEW) A method of claim 1 for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method consists essentially of obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject; treating the sample with a Schiff's reagent without a step of adding an enzyme and, detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast.
26. (NEW) A method of claim 25 wherein the enzyme is galactose oxidase and optionally catalase.
27. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising:
 - a) obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject;
 - b) depositing the sample on a solid support;
 - c) treating the sample with a step consisting essentially of adding a Schiff's reagent;and

- e) detecting a colorimetric change resulting from the reaction of aldehyde markers on the sample and Schiff's reagent wherein a colorimetric change is indicative of neoplasia, precancer or cancer of the breast.
28. (NEW) A method of claim 7 wherein the aldehyde marker comprises aldehydes derived from plasmalogens.